GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3817
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2000
INFANT MORTALITY RATE
A.D.K. JEYASEELAN;AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER;CHELLAMELLA SUGUNA KUMARI;DALPAT SINGH PARASTE;M. JAGANNATH;MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;RATTAN LAL KATARIA;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE;V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the infant mortality rate (USMR) in India is still high;

(b) if so, the details in this regard for the last three years alongwith the comparative figures of USMR for 1991, 1981, 1971 and 1951;

(c) the reasons for continuing high mortality rate amongst the under 5 infants, State-wise;

(d) the position of India amongst the countries of the World in respect of USMR;

(e) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(g) whether the Government propose to secure any donation from the big business houses/organisations to combat this menace; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

(i) Whether there is wide Inter-State variations in IMR;

(j) If so, the details thereof together with reasons for this wide variation;

(k) Whether the Government propose to undertone special programmes to enable the State to achieve the national goal of IMR; and

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MLNISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NT. SHANMUGAM)

(a) & (b) The Sample Registration System of the Registrar General of India provides data on Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Child (0-4 yrs.) Mortality Rate. Infant Mortality Rate is defined as the number of deaths of infants (0-1 yrs.) per 1000 live births. Child (0-4 yrs.) Mortality Rate is defined as the number of deaths in the age group 0-4 yrs, per 1000 population in that age group. The details of last three years and comparative figures for these rates for 1991,1981,1971 and 1951 are given below:-

	IMR	CHILD (0-4YRS.) M.R.
1994	74	23.9
1995	74	24.2
1996	72	23.9
1997	71	Not Available
1998	72	Not Available
1991	80	26.5
1981	110	41.2
1971	129	51.9
1951	148	Not Available

Under 5 Mortality rate (U5MR) is defined as the probability of dying between birth and exact age five. According to the National Family Health Survey conducted in 1992-93, the U5MR for India was 109.3 per 1000 live births.

(c) The major reasons for the high mortality among children include Prematurity, acute respiratory infections including pneumonia, diarrhoea. Maternal anemia due to inadequate maternal nutrition, low birth weight, illiteracy and poverty are some of the important contributing factors.

(d) As per the UNICEF report on the 'State of the World's Children', out of 191 countries ranked in descending order for their estimated U5MR in 1998, Indian ranked 49th.

(e) The Registrar General of India conducts sample survey under the Sample Registration system annually to estimate the infant mortality and child (0-4 yrs) mortality in the States.

(f) The State-wise details of infant mortality and child (0-4 yrs) mortality for the latest 3 years for which these are available is enclosed at Annexure-I.

(g) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(h) Question does not arise.

(i) & (j) There is a wide interstate variation in the infant mortality among states. During 1998, the IMR of Kerala was the lowest at 16 while that of Orissa was the highest at 98. The infant mortality of Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh is above the national average of 72 during 1998. The details of State wise infant mortality are at Annexure-I. The main reasons for this are the state-wise variations in the socio economic conditions, female literacy, early marriage, low immunization coverage and awareness among the people.

(k) & (l) A Reproductive and Child Health Programme is being implemented in all States. The Programme interalia aims at improving child survival and promotion of child health. The interventions under the programme include immunizations against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of deaths due to diarrhea and acute respiratory infections, essential newborn care and prophylaxis against Vitamin A deficiency blindness and nutritional anemia. Special efforts for improving implementation of the programme are being planned in identified districts in 16 States of the country with the help of UNICEF.

Annexure

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (F) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3817 FOR 18TH A 2000

Sl.No.	State/U.Ts	INFANT MORTALITY RATE			CHILD (0-4) MORTALITY RATE		
		1996	1997	1998	1994	1995	1996
Major States							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	65	63	66	17.0	19.1	17.8
2.	Assam	74	75	78	24.7	24.7	24.0
3.	Bihar	71	71	67	24.9	28.3	27.9
4.	Gujarat	61	62	64	22.2	19.9	20.4
5.	Haryana	68	68	69	22.3	22.7	23.4
6.	Karnataka	53	53	55	18.8	18.2	16.6
7.	Kerala	14	12	16	3.4	4.3	3.8
8.	Madhya Pradesh	97	94	97	34.8	33.0	33.5

9. Maharashtra 48 47 49 14.4 14.9 13.1

10. Orissa 96 96 98 31.6 32.2 30.6

11. Punjab 51 51 64 15.7 14.9 15.2

12. Rajasthan 85 85 83 27.4 29.3 31.4

13. Tamil Nadu 53 53 53 13.4 14.5 12.6

14. Uttar Pradesh 85 85 85 33.0 30.0 31.4

15. West Bengal 55 55 53 19.8 18.6 18.1

Other States

1. Arunachal Pradesh 54 47 44

2. Goa 15 19 23

3. Himachal Pradesh 62 63 64 16.0 17.2 17.6

4. J & K NA NA 45

5. Manipur 28 30 25

6. Meghalaya 48 54 52

7. Mizoram 25 19 23

8. Nagaland NA NA NA

9. Sikkim 47 51 52

10. Tripura 49 51 49

Union Territories

1. A & N Islands 27 33 30

2. Chandigarh 45 40 32

3. D & N Haveli 71 63 61

4. Daman & Diu 43 38 51

5. Delhi 44 35 36

6. Lakshadweep 36 36 30

7. Pondicherry 25 22 21

ALL INDIA 72 71 72 23.9 24.2 23.9

Source: Sample registration System

Register General, India

NA = Not Available.